

Claims

1. A video telephone comprising:
 - image pickup means which pickups a photogenic subject and generates a pickup signal;
 - 5 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and outputs a pickup image signal;
 - image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal to an image modification processing for protecting a portrait right;
 - 10 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the image modification processing means; and
 - 15 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image signal selection means.
2. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.
3. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image modification processing means at

a time of starting communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

5 4. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a defocusing processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a defocused state.

10 5. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a deforming processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of pixels in the pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio.

15 6. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a resolution reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image signal.

20 7. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a tone resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup image signal.

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